FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MAY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces "crushed" an Iraqi attack in the northern Hajj 'Umran area 14 May, killing 200 Iraqis and downing seven Iraqi helicopters, Iran announced in military statements reported by IRNA. Further south, Iranian warplanes launched raids on Iraqi armored vehicles in the Faqqeh sector 14 May, according to IRNA. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio claimed that an Iranian F-4 was downed in the East Maysan sector 13 May, but an Iranian spokesman cited by IRNA "categorically" denied this claim, asserting that all Iranian planes returned safely from raids in the Faqqeh sector that day.

In Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn met with visiting Jordanian King Husayn 13 May for talks that covered Iraq's "sound situation" in the face of the "criminal Iranian aggression," Baghdad radio reported. The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and the Arab situation.

As for the Gulf, a Tehran radio commentary maintained that the U. S. statement of concern about attacks on shipping is designed to prepare the political ground for launching "aggressive contingency measures" against Iran.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, in an Independence Day interview with IDF radio, asserted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has recently committed "cardinal mistakes." Asked about Syria's involvement in the 17 April attempt to blow up an El Al plane, Peres said the Syrians "have denied that this decision was made by the central government." A katyusha rocket attack hit the Galilee panhandle 13 May, injuring three people, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that security forces think the missiles were fired from an area outside Israel's security zone in southern Lebanon.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated in a 12 May speech carried by JANA that the Tokyo summit was a failure and that economic sanctions against Libya will rebound on the states which have imposed them. Sanctions provide Libya with an opportunity to end its economic dependence on the capitalist markets of Europe and Japan, to dispense with "false" consumer products, and to become self-sufficient in agricultural production, Al-Qadhdhafi maintained.

As for the row with Spain over alleged Libyan links with Spanish extreme right-wing elements, Tripoli radio said the Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the Spanish ambassador to inform him of Libya's "absolute denial" of Spanish media reports on the issue. A commentary by JANA's political editor asserted that Spain has chosen to "fabricate" the story as a result of its "full partiality to the U.S. hostile stand." In another development affecting Libyan-Spanish relations, AFP noted that members of the "Call of Jesus" group held by the Spanish authorities have admitted receiving money and orders from the Libyan People's Bureau in Madrid.

In Havana, Libyan special envoy 'Ali Hudayri stated that his talks with the Cuban authorities will cover "measures that will allow us to confront North American terrorism," according to the Spanish agency EFE.

PLO, Jordan, and Egypt

Commenting on King Husayn's recent meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Fatah deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir told the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* that the Jordanian monarch rejected Mubarak's proposal to hold a Jordanian-PLO summit under Egyptian auspices, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The PLO has little hope of resuming political cooperation with Jordan soon, he asserted, but it is "premature" to say that Mubarak's mediation efforts have failed.

Qatar-Bahrain

Qatar has told civil airlines that it is prohibiting air traffic over areas of dispute with Bahrain, particularly Fasht al-Dibal island, Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* reported. The airline companies were informed that the changes in civil air routes are due to military air activities.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan lodged a strong protest with the DRA over a number of recent cross-border attacks by DRA forces that caused casualties inside Pakistan, Karachi radio reported. The protest concerned several recent air raids as well as a 13 May artillery attack that killed 14 people and wounded over 20 others in Kurram Agency.

As for the UN-sponsored Pakistani-Afghan indirect talks in Geneva, Karachi radio said progress is being made and more important issues are being discussed. A Pakistani spokesman cited by the radio noted that talks will be held on a timetable for withdrawal for foreign forces if a consensus is reached on the principles of the fourth instrument of the proposed comprehensive agreement.

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TASS Political News Analyst Interviews Najibullah

LD140654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0501 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 13, BAKHTAR — Revolutionary Afghanistan gives every support to the concept of a world without wars worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress, to the package of large-scale peace initiatives set forth by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev and directed at fully ridding the world of the unclear threat by the year 2000 and liquidating weapons of mass annihilation, it was stated by Comrade Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Replying to questions put by TASS political news analyst, he said that "the idea of creating an all-embracing system of international security is of an exceptional importance for teh destiny of peace. The Soviet proposals have evoked a widespread positive response in the world, especially in Asia, and their fulfillment would make it possible to turn our Asian Continent into a zone of lasting peace and goodneighbourliness."

"The supreme aim of our foreign policy is to ensure for the Afghan people a possibility to build a new life in conditions of peace and freedom," Comrade Najib went on. "This aim also determines the core of the country's foreign policy course which is being worked out by the PDPA and is based on principles of friendship of peoples, peaceful coexistence, nonalignment and struggle for peace and security. Vigorous efforts to achieve the speediest settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, which would ensure a real cessation and a reliable non-resumption of armed interference in the internal affairs of our sovereign country constitute one of the most important directions of this course. I think it is especially important to repeat this again today when a particularly important stage is beginning at the talks which we are conducting in Geneva with Pakistan through the personal representative of the United Nations secretary general. We are convinced that a just settlement is possible."

"What is necessary for this possibility to become a reality? Only one thing: political will, a responsible, realistic approach by those circles in the West whose zeal has created the 'Afghan problem.' But what attracts attention is the fact that the extent and intensity of the undeclared war unleashed against the DRA by imperialism and regional reaction are not diminishing and attempts at rude interference in our affairs are not ceasing but, on the contrary, they are becoming ever more vigorous."

"How else can one assess Washington's decision to supply the bandit formations that intrude into Afghanistan from outside with the most modern 'Stinger' rockets, which, as evidenced by the American press itself, the United States supplies only to its 'closest allies'? Also in the same category with such facts are the unceasing attempts in the west to create out of the anti-Afghan groupings that have ensconced themselves abroad a sort of 'joint alliance' which would serve as a sort of headquarters for the export of counterrevolution."

One gathers the impression that it is of benefit to certain imperialist circles to keep the seat of tension in our region and that as soon as some signs indicating a possible headway towards a just solution to the 'Afghan problem' began to show when those circles which count on power-political devices and imperial ultimatums, and not on talks, seek with redoubled zeal to blow up and reverse the positive process. Such a policy, which cannot but give rise to concern, fully fits into the channel of the Washington-constructed so-called "strategy of neo-globalism" the architects of which declare almost the entire world to be a "sphere of U.S. vital interests" and try everywhere — from Libya to Nicaragua from Afghanistan to Kampuchea — to implant ways suitable and advantageous to them by means of force, terror and blackmail.

Touching upon the main tasks of the PDPA Central Committee in the field of domestic policy, Comrade Najib pointed out that Afghan society confidently builds its life on the principles of special justice, democracy and progress. The party, he went on to say, is actively steering a course towards accelerating cardinal transformations in all spheres of the country's life. About 320,000 landless and land-hungry families have been provided with more than 340,000 hectares of land as a result of the land-and-water reform. The national industry is developing: the production of building materials, for example, has grown ten-fold over five years, that of electric power — by 48 percent, cement by 10 per cent, and natural gas by 11 per cent. The first Afghan five-year plan period which began in March this year will see the construction of more than 130 new national economic facilities with the economic and technical assistance of the USSR. The main sections for the country's development in 1986-1991 have been also elaborated. Of course, Comrade Najib said, our successes would have been much greater were it not for the continuing aggression against the DRA, the state has to spend on defence a half of the budget while the material damage inflicted upon the country's national economy by counterrevolutionary bands is estimated at a huge sum of 45,000 million afghanis.

The essence, the pivot of our domestic policy today is to broaden the social basis of the revolution in every way and actively to draw as wide sections of population as possible into one accomplishment of tasks of nationwide scope, Comrade Najib emphasised. Much has already been done in that direction. The ranks of mass socio-political organizations are swelling, and fist of all those of the National Fatherland Front which now has about 760,000 members. The Revolutionary Council of the DRA and the Council of Ministers of the Republic have been considerably enlarged as a result of inviting representatives of various sections of population. During elections held in many provinces of the country, representatives of all classes and all sections of the population — members of the party and non-party people, men and women, workers, peasants, craftsmen, ministers of religion, and authoritative figures of tribes, intellectuals, and representatives of petty bourgeoisie — have been elected to local government bodies — jirghas.

The drafting of a new constitution is going on successfully. The nationalities policy is being refined — the party considers it to be its duty to show everyday concern for all nations, nationalities and tribes of the country. Naturally, the process of expansion of the social foundation of the new system is not an easy or smooth-running process. However, even today it is obvious that the guidelines have been chosen correctly and that the policy pursued by the peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan is met with approval by the broadest sections of the population.

One of the most important tasks of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is to strengthen the country's Armed Forces so that they live up to the tasks set forth by the national-democratic revolution. Our revolutionary army is young, but it already has both combat experience and glorious traditions.

These are the traditions of those who routed not so long ago a major bandit stronghold in Khowst District in the mountains in south-east Afghanistan, destroying more than 2,000 Dushmans (counterrevolutionaries) armed with rockets, anti-aircraft systems for use in mountains and other modern weapon systems of U.S. and British makes, those who staunchly guard the highways and tunnels of Salang, those who carry out operations to ensure the inviolability of our state frontiers. An active part in combatting counterrevolutionary forces is played by mobile units of the Ministry of State Security, units of people's militia and territorial forces of tribesmen. In the course of the fighting against Dushman forces — nearly 200 bands comprising over 30,000 hirelings trained and armed abroad were routed in the country in 1985 alone — the warcraft of our men and officers is developing and their morale is growing stronger. We are setting before the arms the task of ensuring a breakthrough in the battle against counterrevolutionary forces, and this plan shall be achieved!

Eight years ago, when the party hoisted the banner of the April Revolution, it comprised 18,000 people. Now the membership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan stands at 155,100 members and candidate members. The experience of the party's political work among the masses has grown immensely, and its authority is on the rise.

And this is only natural — for members of the party are always in places where the situation is more difficult and more dangerous — as Comrade Babrak Karmal put aptly during the 17th plenary meeting of the PDPA Central Committee. Almost 65 per cent of the party members are under arms, and we are proud to say that the PDPA is a fighting party.

"All our rich and hard-earned experience shows that major and complex problems facing the party and the country call for strengthening in every way the monolithic cohesion of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, unity between word and deed, strengthening links between the party and all strata of the population in the country, and persistently improving people's life. The people of Afghanistan believe the party, ardently support the ideals of the revolution — our paramount task is to back up this support by active, unflagging organisational and political work in the masses. Time is ripe for actions — actions that will be concrete, decisive and fruitful exclamation one should work so that the entire population of the country. on becoming aware of the prospects opened before them by the revolution, should firmly stand guard over the revolutionary gains.

"The strength of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan lies in inviolable unity and cohesion, in unbreakable and durable friendship with the party of great Lenin which gives the world truly inspiring examples of the struggle for peace. Freedom and people's happiness," Comrade Najib said in conclusion.

"We are deeply grateful to the heroic and generous Soviet people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and its leadership for the great, selfless and genuinely internationalist assistance and support which they are rendering to our country in the cause of building a new life and defending the gains of [words indistinct] Revolution.

Pakistan Communist Party Congratulates Najibullah

GF131217 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] On the occasion of the election of Najib as the general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, a message of greetings has arrived from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Pakistan. A part of the message says:

Dear comrade. We can say with full confidence that your work and struggle in this responsible position of the party leadership will consolidate further your party as a vanguard of the toiling people of Afghanistan and will (?turn) the entire Afghan people against the unimposed, undeclared war of reaction and imperialism into a united state in defense of the achievements of the revolution and independence of the country.

We (?wish) that the fraternal relations presently existing between the PDPA and the Communist Party of Afghanistan will further expand and consolidate. We wish you great successes in your revolutionary and responsible work and struggle.

Indirect Talks in Geneva Continue Under UN Auspices

LD131856 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan is continuing in Geneva. The talks are chaired by Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN Secretary General. The Afghan delegation is headed by Shah Mohammad Dost, and the Pakistani delegation by Foreign Minister Sahabdzada Yaqub Ali Khan.

Election Commission Appoints 54 Tribunals

BK131607 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Election Commission has appointed 54 election tribunals for hearing and disposal of election petitions in connection with the just concluded Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] elections. It was published in a gazette notification in Dhaka today. The election tribunals consist of district and session judges.

As already reported, an election petition is to be presented to the Election Commission within 45 days after the publication in the official gazette of the name of the returned candidate. A petitioner may claim that the election of the returned candidate is void and that the petitioner or some other person has been duly elected or that the election as a whole is void.

Delhi: Opposition Calls For 6-Hour Strike

BK140907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 6-hour strike from 0600 in the morning to noon today was observed all over the country. The call for the strike was given by the 8-party alliance led by the Awami League to protest against the alleged large-scale rigging of the parliamentary elections held on the 7th of this month. The All India Radio Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that the hartal [strike] was spontaneous and total in Dhaka. All private and public vehicles were off the road. Shops and business establishments remained closed. However, government offices and banks functioned with poor attendance.

Meanwhile, the opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has accused the government of conspiring to elect candidates of the progovernment Jatiya Party in 34 constituencies where polling was suspended due to violence on the 7th of this month. She said that the government unilaterally declared two Jatiya Party candidates elected in Monday's repolling without giving adequate time and facilities to the rival candidate. With this, the Jatiya Party has won 136 seats out of the 300 in which elections were held. The opposition Awami League and its other partners of the 8-party alliance have bagged 90 seats.

Libyan Envoy Expresses Thanks for Support

BK131618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-'Ati Ibrahim al-'Ubaydi, special envoy of the Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, has appreciated Dhaka's support for the Libyan people during recent U.S. air raids on Tripoli. The envoy told a news conference in Dhaka today that his government is satisfied with the Bangladesh stand. He is now on a 2-day visit to Bangladesh.

Egyptian Daily Interviews Prime Minister Gandhi
PM131510 Cairo AL-AHRAM INTERNATIONAL EDITION in Arabic 10 May 86 p 3

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by 'A'ishah 'Abd al-Ghaffar in New Delhi; date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr Prime Minister, how do you assess current Egyptian-Indian relations?
Answer: There was a time when Egyptian-Indian relations were not so good as one would wish but I believe that we are now on the right course. We can and we must develop closer relations. I hope that will be achieved soon.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, how do you assess the Middle East conflict in the light of the present state of Jordanian-Palestinian relations?
Answer: It is difficult to comment on that. We have heard of new initiatives. We believe that Jordan has been trying again but the real problem is getting to the root of the crisis. The Palestinians should have a homeland. It seems that we are making efforts without getting to the core of the problem. The problem will continue if the Palestinian right to a homeland is not taken into consideration.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, the situation in the Mediterranean has entered a dangerous phase since the U.S. intervention against Libya? What is your comment?
Answer: We are fully aware that there is nothing to justify that measure. We are firmly against terrorism. Perhaps we, the Indian nation, have suffered more than others from terrorism but there is no place for any form of terrorism here and we will do our best to fight terrorism. However, we believe that the U.S. reaction was not fully justified and we do not believe that such measures are effective in stopping terrorism. In fact, they open more scope for acts of terrorism and for terrorist pressure. For example, if we felt that those who commit terrorism here get their training in Pakistan, would that mean that we should send our bombers to Islamabad in an attempt to bomb Preident Ziaul Haq's residence? That would be ridiculous.

Question: How, in your view, can international terrorism be fought?
Answer: We have Sikh terrorists. We know that there are terrorists elsewhere in the world. The IRA is openly financed by elements in the United States. I mean that it is not done secretly. That is why this issue should be tackled as a whole. We cannot, in the face of danger, go and strike at individuals. That does not produce positive results.

Question: What do you mean by tackling the problem as a whole?
Answer: It will not be easy. We should first define what is meant by terrorism and we should all cooperate. We cannot have double standards in our approach to the problem. For example, we cannot manage, finance, and sponsor terrorism and train terrorists in one place and then complain about the existence of terrorism elsewhere. Terrorism should be tackled equally and with a united approach which should be part of developing international security.

Question: As chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, how do you assess the movement's recent achievements and have there been any negative aspects in its performace?
Answer: First let me tell you that the Nonaligned Movement has grown considerably and has become stronger in recent years. It probably has never been stronger or more united. There are problems, however, and the movement's biggest setback is perhaps its failure to achieve any success in promoting a solution to the Iraq-Iran war.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, what are your expectations for the Nonaligned Movement particularly since some people are of the opinion that there was a kind of conflict or confrontation between the movement and one of the two superpowers over the recent events in the Mediterranean?
Answer: We do not want any confrontation with any superpower. The attitude we adopted toward the U.S. measure against Libya — I think you are referring to that — is not considered a confrontation with the United States. It was an objection to a certain action. We would have taken a similar stand against any other side.

Question: Some political observers are saying that Pakistan was behind the Punjab disturbances. Is that why your visit to Pakistan has been cancelled?
Answer: They were behind these disturbances in a way. We know that and we have told Pakistan what we know but the postponement of the visit is linked to a general agreement and not simply one part of an agreement. For example, trade relations have not been activated adequately because Pakistan has some reservations and the committees have not met. There is also the question of entry visas and other problems that remain to be solved. There is a long list of unresolved issues.

Question: The world's media are showing great interest in India's relations with the two superpowers. Some commentators predict a desire on the Indian and U.S. sides to develop warmer relations between them. Whereas the late Mrs Indira Gandhi pursued a policy of openness to the Soviet Union, some people maintain that your policy is closer to Western liberalism.
Answer: I do not know, we have not changed that policy much. We still follow the rules of the honest policy drawn up by Mrs Indira Gandhi, but there is one thing. We go faster on some issues and slower on other issues. It is a question of balance. We are trying to mobilize all aspects of the economy to achieve maximum development.

Question: But there is clear openness toward the United States.
Answer: We have achieved more progress in our relations with the United States. Of course we have had problems regarding the Libyan problem recently, but I believe that our relations with the United States should be mature enough to allow both sides to express their views to ensure democracy.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, how do you compare India's relations with the United States now with what they were in the seventies?
Answer: They are better than they were in the seventies in all fields, much better.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, do you not believe that your recent attitude toward the United States at the Security Council will affect U.S.-Indian relations?
Answer: It might but we hope it will not because mature relations mean that democratic sovereign states have a right to express their opinion. When we spoke at the Security Council we were not speaking only for India. All small states and all the Third World states had anxieties regarding the U.S. move. We spoke out, and we feel that what happened in Grenada could happen in Nicaragua which is coming under the same pressures. Libya might be exposed to the same pressures. Such acts expose all our borders to violation and and that is something we do not wish to see.

Question: During my visit in India I have followed the split which has occurred in India's Congress Party which is led by you. Do you believe, Mr Prime Minister, that this will affect the vitality of that national political establishment which is so prominent in India's history? In your view, how much will the strict organizational steps you have taken affect the the party's future?
Answer: These steps will not affect the party's vitality at all. In fact they will reactivate it because certain elements had been a burden to the party.

Question: Mr Prime Minister, you have banished some Congress Party members. How will that affect your democratic image?
Answer: We did that in accordance with the Constitution. That measure was not undemocratic at all.

Gandhi Leaves for Frontline African States

BK140509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was given a warm send-off when he left New Delhi in the early hours of this morning for Lusaka on the first leg of his 5-day visit to four Frontline African States — Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Tanzania. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by his cabinet colleagues, members of Parliament, diplomats, and other officials. The prime minister is accompanied by his wife, Mrs Sonia Gandhi. Others accompanying him include the external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro; and the minister of state for fertilizers, Mr Natwar Singh.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the prime minister said that his visit is in support of those countries which are fighting the abhorrent practice of apartheid. Asked whether he is taking any specific proposal to hasten the process of Namibian independence, Mr Gandhi gave a negative reply and said he will discuss the matter with the African leaders.

At Lusaka, the prime minister will have talks with President Kenneth E. Kaunda and his colleagues in Zambia before flying to Harare. Mr Gandhi will have talks with the chairman designate of NAM [Nonaligned Movement], Dr Robert Mugabe, and will call on the president of Zimbabwe, Mr Canaan Banana. Later the prime minister will proceed to the Angolan capital Luanda where he will have talks with its leader, Dr Santos. Mr Gandhi will also meet the SWAPO [Southwest African People's Organization] leader, Mr Sam Nujoma. He will then fly to Dar es Salaam where he will have official talks with the president, Ali-Hassan Mwinyi. He will also have a meeting with the former Tanzanian president, Dr Julius Nyerere, before returning to New Delhi on Monday.

External Minister Raps Jayewardene Remarks on Tamils

BK131639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] India has requested Sri Lanka to communicate its views on certain alternative formulations for solving the ethnic problem. The new external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, said this in the Rajya Sabha today while replying to a calling-attention motion by Mr V. Gopalaswamy, DMK, and 24 others. He said there are a number of crucial gaps in the formulations on the extent to which Sri Lanka is willing to meet the political aspirations of the Tamils. These formulations were brought from Sri Lanka by the Chidambaram delegation. The gap relates to core issues like law and order and the relationship between the northern and eastern provinces.

Mr Shiv Shankar said Tamils attach great importance to these issues. However, there has been some movement on issues like the overall structure for devolution of power and land settlement policy. He said only a package of proposals which constitute a fair and reasonable basis for a negotiated settlement can be put to the Tamil side. Mr Shiv Shankar said unless Sri Lanka takes decisive steps to accommodate the Tamil aspirations, the political process may suffer a setback. India is keen to ensure that a solution is arrived at within a compressed time frame. Condemning the continuing violence in Sri Lanka, he said it is vitiating the atmosphere for a peaceful solution.

Replying to a question, Mr Shiv Shankar expressed regret on President Jayewardene's reported statement suggesting a military solution to the ethnic problem. He described it as intemperate and irresponsible. He said it does not behoove a seasoned politician like Mr Jayewardene to speak so.

Mr Shiv Shankar also said that the Sri Lankan president's remarks about the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, are without any basis and are unfortunate. He said this shows to what extent Mr Jayewardene has lost the confidence of his own people. He, however, did not agree with the demand that India should break off diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka.

Replying to some members' points that the involvement of some foreign countries in Sri Lanka poses a threat to India's security, the minister said the matter has been taken up at the diplomatic level. While Britain has denied the involvement of mercenaries from that country, the issue has been taken up with South Africa and Israel through countries friendly to them. The minister said so far 126,000 refugees have come to India from Sri Lanka. He said India cannot turn them back unless safe and honorable conditions are created for their return.

Speaking on the motion, members expressed serious concern over the developments in Sri Lanka and urged the government to take

a strong stand. They argued that since Mr Jayewardene has internationalized the issue by seeking military assistance from Western powers, the question cannot be treated as an internal problem of Sri Lanka. The mover of the motion, Mr Gopalaswamy, said there is no use continuing the negotiations with Sri Lanka. He urged the government to restructure its policy for protecting the lives and property of Sri Lankan Tamils.

Several opposition members urged the government to mobilize public opinion against the Sri Lankan Government in international fora. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan national security minister has said that Colombo is willing to discuss the recent package of proposals with representatives of Tamil groups. Mr Athulathmudali told the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Mr J.N. Dixit, that after the proposals are examined by the Government of India, the Sri Lankan Government may be in a position to start a dialogue. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that Mr Dixit told the Sri Lankan minister that, although the recent proposals represent more progress on certain aspects, some more elements remain to be sorted out.

Further Details

BK140354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] According to PTI report, the Sri Lankan response on certain core issues regarding the ethnic conflict in the island has caused deep disappointment to India. The report says that the response falls far short of the basis for meaningful negotiations for a political solution. The response was conveyed by the Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tillakaratne, to the external affairs minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, during their discussions in New Delhi yesterday.

The discussions concerned certain alternative formulations regarding law and order and the nature of the relationship between the present northern and eastern provinces of the island. The reports says that the Indian disappointment means that Colombo will have to reconsider its position on these issues before discussions could commence with the Tamil groups.

Continuing Reportage on 'Indirect Talks' in Geneva

Main Issues Discussed

BK131602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of indirect talks on Afghanistan continued in Geneva today. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN [APP] says the indirect talks have gained momentum as progress has been made toward the main issues of the proposed comprehensive settlement. A Pakistani delegation spokesman told APP after today's meeting that now the two sides are considering the main issues.

Yaqub Khan, UN's Cordovez Meet

BK140439 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, had an hour-long meeting with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and other members of the Pakistani delegation at Pakistan's permanent mission in Geneva yesterday evening. According to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS of PAKISTAN], they reviewed the progress made in the indirect talks held so far on the fourth instrument of the comprehensive agreement for the settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

It is understood that at the meeting, discussions were held on various matters for the settlement including the talks on the timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. It is expected that Cordovez will have such informal meeting with the Kabul delegation before the commencement of the formal talks today.

APP says after the informal talks held yesterday more important points of the proposed agreement have come under consideration.

After yesterday's meeting a spokesman of the Pakistani delegation told the news agency that both sides are coming toward the real problems now. The spokesman said the basic principles of the fourth instrument of the proposed comprehensive agreement, on which the talks are being held now, are very important as only after reaching consensus will the talks on the timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan begin. Therefore, the axis of the present round of talks lies on the consensus on the time table for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

The spokesman said the seventh round of indirect talks can be divided into three parts: one, the preamble to the fourth instrument and discussions on other miscellaneous matters; two, discussions on vital basic principles by which talks can be held on the question of withdrawal of troops; and three, talks on the withdrawal of troops.

He said at the talks held so far only the first part was discussed and thus the extension of talks till the 3d week seems to be indispensable.

Protest Lodged With DRA Over Border Attacks

BK131547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Afghan artillery shelled the Teri Mangal market area in Khurram Agency at 0945 this morning, killing 14 people and injuring more than 20 others. Those killed included 13 Afghan refugees and 1 Pakistani national.

On Thursday [8 May], four Afghan fighter planes entered Pakistani airspace at 0845 and dropped some bombs on Khurram Agency, slightly injuring three soldiers of the Khurram militia.

Again at 0640 on Friday, four Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistan's airspace and dropped two bombs on the (Kotri) post in Khurram Agency, completely destroying the post.

Two Afghan jet aircraft again violated Pakistani airspace between 2220 and 2235 on Saturday and dropped two bombs and fired several rockets in the (Gomandi) area, 30 miles northeast of Chaman, killing one and injuring two Afghan refugees.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon, and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks. He was asked to convey to his authorities that if these attacks are not stopped, the entire responsibility for their serious consequences will rest with them.

AFP: Further Details

NC131905 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Islamabad, May 13 (AFP) — Artillery shells fired from inside Afghanistan killed 14 people, most of them Afghan refugees, and wounded 20 at a Pakistani border market on Tuesday, Pakistani officials said.

Sources close to the Afghan resistance said the shelling may have been part of a fresh Soviet-backed drive against guerrillas in the area, traditionally a springboard for the insurgents. The shells hit the market at Teri Mangal, west of the Pakistani border town of Parachinar, according to officials in the western Pakistani city of Peshawar. Thirteen of the dead were reported to have been Afghan refugees and one was said to have been a Pakistani. Earlier in the day, Afghan rebel sympathizers in Peshawar had given a slightly lower casualty toll.

Pakistan separately protested on Tuesday against what it said were three other recent violations of its air space by Afghan Government planes on May 8, 9, 10, according to the Pakistani news agency APP.

The latest incident appeared to be linked to the start of a combined offensive by Soviet and Afghan Government troops against what are reported to be at least two major guerrilla bases in Jaji District, near the Afghan border, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY said.

The agency, generally reliable for information on eastern Afghanistan, has reported that the combined communist forces began shelling Jaji about a week and that a major military convoy

had apparently left the garrison town of Gardez, in the southeastern province of Paktia, for Jaji. [sentence as received] Jaji, at the northeastern tip of Paktia, is a key guerrilla infiltration springboard. It came under heavy fire last September during a major offensive throughout the southeast from Kabul to the border.

Afghan Mujahidin Destroy 3 Posts, Kill 85 Soldiers

BK131611 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have destroyed three military posts in the capital of the Farah Province, killing 50 Soviet-Karmal soldiers in the operation. In another attack at (Jugdaluk) at the outskirts of Kabul, 35 Soviet-Kabul guerrillas [as heard] were killed.

JANG Criticizes Asghar Khan, USSR Envoy Meeting

GF131047 Lahore JANG in Urdu 7 May 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Confederation Plan"]

[Text] Air Marshal (Rtd) Asghar Khan, chairman of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party, at a meeting the other day with his excellency Abdul Rakhman Vezirov, the Soviet ambassador, exchanged views on his plan to form a Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran confederation. This plan is the brainchild of the Tehrik-e Istiqlal Party.

Speaking to correspondents after the meeting he said: If this confederation comes into existence it will not only bring a balance of power to the region but will also ensure considerable savings by introducing a decrease in the size of armies. This saving could be used by the three countries in the welfare of their people.

Asghar Khan is leader of a political party. It is not unusual for leaders of political parties to meet with foreign envoys and representatives, but to discuss matters which are beyond the jurisdiction of the political leaders certainly looks strange.

We could ask Asghar Khan whether in his present political status he could give any practical shape to the matter he discussed with the Soviet ambassador.

Tehrik-e Istiqlal's political popularity is not such that it could hope to come to power in the near future. Moreover, the subject of a confederation between those three countries is not such that the leader of a political party of limited influence could say that his views were based on the wishes of the whole nation.

It is no secret to Asghar Khan that widespread differences exist not only in the political, economic, and social systems of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, but that there also are basic differences between the three countries on international problems. In regional matters they do not hold the same views. Therefore, his meeting is neither related to our national interest nor does it represent the views of any influential political party.

Musavi Addresses Guards Corps' Explosives Experts

LD131346 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Tuesday that economic, military and political pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran have so far proven ineffective due to the resistance of the people. The prime minister was speaking to a group of explosive experts of Imam 'Ali (AS) Division of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

He said despite the overall support of international imperialism for the Iraqi regime, the devotion and resistance of Islamic combatants of Iran has saved the Islamic revolution and forced the enemies of Islam to retreat. He praised braveries of the members of the battalion, adding that propaganda machinery of international arrogance feared representing the true profile of the Islamic combatants.

The prime minister noted that the world public opinion were under the control of a handful of international news agencies which, from the very beginning of the Islamic Revolution, have tried to mar realities about the revolution. Musavi stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its reliance on committed Muslims, has been standing on its feet and has the power to make decisions in the benefit of the revolution.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Criticizes U.S. Statement

LD131738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Regarding a White House spokesman's statement about threats to U.S. interests if the Iran-Iraq war expands and about attacks on oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, describing the statements as a propaganda ploy by the U.S. ruling circles to sell more arms to the countries in the region, said: The world's free-thinking people today realize that the sole factor of tension in the Persian Gulf and the side which started the attacks on oil tankers was the aggressive Iraqi regime which, supported by international arrogance's military and political support and the green light to that regime particularly from U.S. imperialism, has been operating as a tool of imperialism to exacerbate tension in the region.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, stressing that the Persian Gulf security is the responsibility of the countries in the region and that the United States has no right to exercise any interference whatsoever or to offer any opinions on the matter, said: On the one hand the United States and its allies help Iraq in its attacks in the Persian Gulf, and, on the other hand, use the excuse of increasing tension in the region and of safeguarding security to sell more arms and further entrench their presence in the region — something which itself is a factor which causes insecurity in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while bringing this fact to the attention of nations and states in the region, declares that it will confront that conspiracy and regards it its right — in the war that international arrogance has imposed upon Iran through the Saddam regime — to defend itself by every possible means and to eliminate the source of tension in the region and settle the issue.

U.S. Blamed for Abduction of Newsmen in W. Beirut

LD132115 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Lebanese Muslim ulema and clergymen have (?revealed) that the United States and the Zionist regime, by embarking on abducting and assassinating foreign newsmen resident in West Beirut, are paving the way for delivering a military blow to the Lebanese Muslims. The Lebanese Muslim ulema delivered speeches in different parts of this country which were covered in the Beirut press today and they emphasize that what is currently happening in West Beirut has been fabricated by international information machinery and local organizations have denied interfering in such fabrications.

A spokesman for the Hezbollah of Lebanon, 'Allamah Ibrahim al-Amin, blamed the United States for abducting the foreign journalists in West Beirut. On the other hand 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the clergyman and a prominent 'alem [a singular form of ulema, meaning scholar] of Lebanon, warned that the situation in this country has now become grave and added: The abductions, as well as well assassinations, that we are witnessing is one of the gravest crises in Lebanon.

Pakistani Muslim Students Urge Anti-U.S. Protests

LD132100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Imamiyah Students' Union of Pakistan, at the end of its meeting in Lahore University yesterday, named this coming Thursday [15 May] the Day of Death to United States, in order to mark the anniversary of the Palestine occupation by Zionists. This union also invited the people of Pakistan to show their solidarity with the Muslim people of Palestine by participating in anti-Zionist and anti-American demonstrations.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, the Imamiyah Students' Union, during its meeting, referred to the bomb explosion at the engineering department of Lahore University as an American conspiracy. This union also called upon the Pakistan Government to reduce relations with the United States, ban printing of the U.S. periodicals and pamphlets in Pakistan, and grant permits only to Islamic countries to establish cultural centers.

Bahrain-Qatar Feud Shows GCC Lack of Cooperation

GF140743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 May 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "Differences Between Bahrain and Qatar Regarding the Hawar Archipelago"]

[Text] Sixteen days ago Qatari Government troops alighted on a small island in the Persian Gulf. Now the 30 employees of a

Dutch company — who had been abducted at the beginning of the operations — have been released by the Doha officials.

The incident took place on 26 April this year, when the Qatari Armed Forces attacked the small Fasht al-Dibal island and took to Doha the employees of a Dutch company who were involved in the construction of military installations on that island. The two sides were silent for a few days and only attacked one another in communiques, each accusing the other of committing aggression against the other's sovereignty. The Saudi defense minister acted as an intermediary when he visited Manama and Doha. The small desert island of Fasht al-Dibal, which submerges at high tide, comprises an archipelago along with two other islands, Hawar and (Jeradah), known together as Hawar.

The Bahrain Government states that the Al-Khalifah dynasty, the present rulers of the country, settled on the shores of the Qatari peninsula in the beginning of the 18th century of the Gregorian calendar, from where they went to the Hawar Islands and then assumed sovereignty over Bahrain. Hence the Fasht al-Dibal has belonged to them for the past 2 centuries. However, the Qatari Government has refuted this claim by the Bahraini Government and professes sovereignty over the island. Some historians state that the question of who possesses the Hawar archipelago dates back to 1938 when British colonialists controlled the destiny of the littoral shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf. The Bahraini and Qatari shaykhs referred their dispute to the British authorities, who gave one party a written deed of ownership and the other party an oral one. Thus the source of dissension remained.

There are many similar cases in the Persian Gulf analogous to the Hawar dispute. For example, the UAE, the Sultanate of Oman, and the Saudi monarchy had differences with one another concerning an area called Wadi al-Buraymah dating back to British colonial domination; this still exists. Territorial differences between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Jordan and Iraq, and Kuwait and Iraq were until recently one factor for the wrangling among the sides involved. When the Iraqi regime realized last year that it needed financial and other assistance from Saudi Arabia and Jordan, it ignored the causes of its discord with these two countries, but even now the presence of neutral territory in the middle of Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia is tangible proof of the unresolved border dispute between them.

The schism between the two minor governments of Bahrain, with an area of 670 square km and a population of 380,000, and Qatar, with an area of 11,000 square km and a population of 250,000 — was temporarily pushed in the background through the arbitration of the newly formed GCC. Differences were put aside. As Qatar has stated, the two agreed not to attempt any merger of the Hawar Islands. The Bahraini Government violated this agreement and employed a Dutch company to change this island into a military base. The Qatari Government adds that it had no choice but to stage an armed attack and abduct the employees.

Following the Fasht al-Dibal incident, the Saudi defense minister hastily visited Bahrain and Qatar and asked the shaykhs of the two countries to forget their differences. The foreign minister and 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, initiated mediation measures. Then Husni Mubarak and Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba telephoned the two sides to begin negotiations. None of these efforts have so far persuaded Qatar to remove its military units stationed in the vicinity of Fasht al-Dibal. After repeated shuttling and efforts by those mentioned above and contacts by the British envoy in Qatar and the Netherlands charge d'affaires in Kuwait, and after 16 days, the Qatari Government finally agreed only to releasing the 30 expatriate employees of the Dutch company who were taken hostage.

This incident indicates that members of the GCC, contrary to its name, could not even cooperate with one another or resolve their territorial disputes. This issue is desparate from the other differences, which stem from the presence of foreign forces in the region or the proposal for a joint peace plan among its members. In any case, overt and covert negotiations are in progress, which until now have yielded no fruit except to keep the rift quiet. There is no indication that a fundamental solution to the differences has been achieved.

Envoy in Kuwait Meets With Crown Prince

LD131401 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, May 13, IRNA — Charge D'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Reza Baqeri met with the Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister here Tuesday to discuss mutual relations and the latest developments in the region.

At the meeting Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah expressed hope that relations between the two countries would further expand.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Claim 'Categorically' Denied

LD131817 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Tuesday categorically denied an Iraqi claim of having shot down an Iranian jet fighter near the Iran-Iraq border Tuesday. The WIH Spokesman said that on Tuesday Iranian fighter bombers had heavily poinded Iraqi positions in Faqqeh, southern fronts four times Tuesday and safely returned to their bases.

The spokesman said to save itself from the trouble of substantiating its claim the Iraqi regime had said that the Iranian fighter had crashed over the Iranian territory.

Navy Inspects Iraq-Bound Vessel

LD131717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brave warriors of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at 1820 hours (local time) yesterday intercepted and inspected a foreign merchant ship in the Persian Gulf waters and after making sure

that it was not carrying any goods bound for the Iraqi aggressive state, was allowed to continue its voyage.

According to this report, on the country's western front, seven group bunkers, two tanks, and two light- and heavy-weight enemy vehicles were destroyed and a number of their troops were either killed or wounded. In the Panjwin operational sector, our forces opened fire on several enemy units which were redeploying their troops and inflicted some losses on them. The city of Abadan was under the Zionist enemy's long range artillery fire yesterday.

Successes in Faqqeh Region

LD131751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the combatants of Islam in the Faqqeh operational sector continued their victorious battle against the Iraqi forces today and by smashing their positions, set ablaze and destroyed dozens of tanks and personnel carriers and a large number of vehicles belonging to the aggressive enemy. During yesterday's and today's clashes, more than 60 mortar launchers were either destroyed or were captured intact by the forces of Islam as booty. Also in the course of repulsing a move by the Zionist enemy's forces in Pich-e Angizeh operational sector, the victorious warriors of Islam smashed the enemy positions and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

The fast flying pilots of the Iranian Air Force succeeded in heavily bombing concentration points, military hardware, and troops of Baghdad's Ba'thist forces in the Faqqeh sector at 0525, 0825, 0935, and 1308 hours today; and after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, safely returned to their bases.

Communique No 2,469

LD131802 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under foreign flag in the Persian Gulf at 14:50 hours GMT Monday, but allowed her to continue voyage after being satisfied that she was not carrying military hardware or war-related goods to Iraq, according to a military communique here tuesday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2469 says that Iranian Muslim forces checked Iraqi engineering operations throughout the southern fronts and opened fire on enemy armoured units elsewhere in Yebis and Hoseyniyeh, silencing their fire.

Seven bunkers, two tanks and three vehicles of Iraqi forces were destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded in the western fronts Monday, says the joint staff.

The communique says that artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee in Shur Shirin and checked movements of Iraqi vehicle columns in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Neqazeh and Halaleh.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces continued their defensive operations and despatched patrols to pre-determined targets among the Iraqi forces. They also sheiled Iraqi engineering units and supply vehicles in Marvdasht halting or limiting their activities. Some Iraqi units in Panjwin were shelled and sustained casualties as they were changing position, says the military communique. Meanwhile Iraqi long range artillery fire on Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Monday, damaged some buildings in the city.

4 Iraqi Helicopters Downed

LD140708 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The Islamic forces of Iran repelled an Iraqi attack in Haj 'Umran area, opposite the West Azarbayjan city of Piranshahr, five kms from the Iran-Iraqi border, Wednesday morning, said a Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters statement. Hundreds of enemy forces were killed or wounded, it added.

According to the communique the attack was totally crushed and the Iranian air defence units downed four Iraqi helicopter gunships which intended to attack the Iranian positions in the area. The Islamic forces of Iran also destroyed five enemy tanks and a number of other enemy light and heavy munitions.

7 Helicopters Downed

LD141002 Tehran IRNA in English 0951 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., May 14, IRNA — The number of Iraqi helicopter gunships downed in Haj 'Umran area, 5 kms from the Iran-Iraq border opposite the West Azarbayjan City of Piranshahr, has reached to seven, said a military commander of the Islamic Forces of Iran in Seyyed al-Shohada headquarters, here Wednesday. Commenting on the Iraqi Wednesday morning desperate attack, he said that a number of Iraqi forces have been captured, some 200 of them have been killed and hundreds of others wounded. The Islamic Forces of Iran have set 10 Iraqi tanks ablaze and large amount of enemy munition have been destroyed, he added.

Iraqi Attack Repulsed 14 May

GF140724 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters has announced that the forces of the 'Aflaqi regime launched at dawn today, Wednesday, a counteroffensive against the Haj 'Umran area. The heroes of Islam repulsed the offensive and destroyed it completely, thanks to their vigilance and rapid movement. They killed hundreds of the troops of the ruling Zionist regime in Iraq. During the repulse of this attack, carried out by the forces of the ruling Zionist regime, the Islamic combatants downed four enemy helicopter gunships which attempted to bomb Islamic positions. Five tanks were destroyed in addition to scores of arms and light- and medium-heavy military equipment belonging to the forces of the ruling 'Aflaqi regime in Iraq.

Heavy Iraqi Casualties in Faqqeh

LD140745 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The Iranian warplanes in two separate missions Wednesday morning bombed concentration centers of the armoured Iraqi forces in northwest of the Faqqeh operational theater, northwest of Bostan in Khuzestan Province, said a Joint Staff statement. According to the statement in these attacks heavy casualties and damage were inflicted on enemy positions and all Iranian aircraft returned safely to their bases.